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Letter dated 28 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement which was to have been delivered on 24 September 2010 at the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly by Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Head of the Delegation of Viet Nam to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and kindly request that the statement be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8 (see annex).

(*Signed*) **Le Luong Minh**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

10-56315 (E) 071010

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Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your election as the President of this sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. I am confident that your experience will help bring this session to great success. Viet Nam fully endorses the theme "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance" that you proposed for this debate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki for his significant contributions to the sixty-fourth session.

Mr. President,

Our session coincides with the sixty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the world's largest multilateral organization established with a noble mandate of coordinating actions of all nations towards peace, prosperity and justice. Over the past 65 years, the international community and the United Nations have recorded extraordinary achievements in a wide range of areas.

Along with conceptual changes on sustainable development coupled with equitable distribution and enjoyment of fruits produced by growth, the lives of the majority of humankind have been improved and better cared for in many aspects. The process of globalization and the scientific-technological revolution have rendered national interests increasingly interdependent and intertwined. Linkages and exchanges among nations have expanded and deepened, thus further enriching the material, cultural and spiritual values of mankind.

Guided by the primary purposes enshrined in its Charter, which are to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, promote cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and guarantee human rights, the United Nations has through its membership carried out its lofty mandates in a concrete manner. In this regard, we treasure the outstanding contributions of the United Nations to the prevention of a new world war, settlement of conflicts and civil wars in many countries, roll back of arms races and promotion of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, subsequently contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security as well as creation of such a peaceful and secure environment as it is now for humankind to develop.

Besides, we cannot help mentioning the considerable role played by the United Nations in accelerating the process of decolonization in the 1960s and 1970s, which helped liberate over 80 nations from the shackle of colonialism, win national independence and become members of the United Nations. We can never obscure our memories of the four consecutive decades of development initiated by the

United Nations since the 1960s to assist nations, especially the newly independent, in emerging autonomous and mastering their own processes of socio-economic development, improvement of health care and education, and protection of the environment. The United Nations has also made highly essential contributions to the design of an international legal system, with the Charter of the United Nations itself being the most important piece of legislation.

While a new world war has been avoided, the world of today is still fraught with untold paradoxes and challenges, and the sword of Damocles is still hanging over mankind. We all have witnessed many a war, local conflict, international terrorism, arms race, and proliferation of nuclear weapons. Confrontation, unilateralism, violation of national independence and sovereignty, and inequality in international relations, though somewhat abated, have persisted, and new dangers have surfaced. Over 1 billion people are still living in destitute poverty, and hundreds of millions of others put under the scourge of climate change, food insecurity, natural disasters, pandemics and terrorism.

Mr. President,

This situation requires our greater efforts and solidarity to achieve a world of genuine peace, a better life, and a brighter future for all.

The 65-year journey of the United Nations and mankind as a whole with all their successes and constraints has taught us a valuable lesson that the key to success lies in each nation's own efforts, enhanced international cooperation and promoted multilateralism on the basis of respect for fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

In this spirit, Viet Nam holds that this session of the General Assembly under the theme "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance" should focus on the following issues:

First, it is imperative to maintain a peaceful and secure environment to facilitate nations' development. In this connection, the United Nations should continue promoting efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons given the new opportunities and prospects, while ensuring the rights of nations to use nuclear technologies and energy for peaceful purposes. As regards differences concerning nuclear proliferation risks, Viet Nam supports efforts aimed at solutions through dialogue and peaceful negotiation.

At the same time, the United Nations should continue promoting measures for adequate settlement of civil wars and local conflicts ongoing in many regions of the world, especially those in Africa as the continent suffering the most in the development process, as has been visibly evident at the newly concluded high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals.

Against such a backdrop, Viet Nam supports efforts for a fair, comprehensive and long-term solution to peace in the Middle East. Supporting the reconstruction and national reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, we hope that the people of Iraq and Afghanistan will soon enjoy security, independence and sovereignty for development. With regard to Kosovo, Viet Nam calls on the parties concerned to enhance dialogue in order to achieve a comprehensive solution based on Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Second, the international community and the United Nations should continue efforts to build equal international relations, and further improve the international system of law and institutions. Developing countries should be enabled to take part in the globalization and international integration process in a proactive and effective manner. Developed countries, on their part, should fully deliver on their commitments to development assistance, technology transfer and market access. It is important that the United Nations undertake measures to prevent unilateral use of economic means against developing countries. In that context, Viet Nam once again calls upon the United Nations to press ahead with the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions requesting the United States to immediately end its policy of embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

Third, the United Nations, in order to adapt to a changing world, needs to promote reforms as a priority in its agenda. The reforms should be implemented in a prompt, comprehensive, balanced and transparent manner with a view to enhancing the role of the General Assembly, enabling the Economic and Social Council to help the United Nations maximize its role in the development sphere, and enlarging the Security Council membership and improving its working methods. Viet Nam hopes that the negotiations on the United Nations reforms, particularly the reform of the Security Council and its membership enlargement, will soon produce fruitful results.

Viet Nam also looks forward to more coherent, consistent and effective development activities of the United Nations so as to better respond to the demands, priorities and specific conditions of recipient countries. The operation of the Human Rights Council and other United Nations human rights mechanisms should continue to be improved to avoid double standards and politicization.

Mr. President,

As actors with an increasingly important role in international affairs and having contributed to the work of the United Nations in many areas, regional organizations have proven effective in helping address many regional and global issues. I wish, in this connection, to mention in particular the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with its incessant growth and development as a dynamic and integrated cooperative organization of 10 countries in South-East Asia, which is striving for the goal of an ASEAN Community by 2015 that rests on three pillars, i.e., the political-security community, the economy community, and the sociocultural community.

In its cooperation with external partners, ASEAN has been effectively asserting its posture in an environment of peace, security and cooperation for development in the region and the world. The Association has served as the major driving force for cooperation and integration in East Asia, especially in the economic and trade fields. Moreover, ASEAN has been actively promoting the development and sharing of norms and codes of conduct among nations, including particularly the Treaty on Amity and Cooperation, the Treaty on a Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

As the Chair of ASEAN in 2010 under the theme "Toward an ASEAN community: from vision to action", Viet Nam has been making every effort to contribute to the success of the Association. Motivated by the policy of supporting and harnessing cooperation with the United Nations, we have been working closely

with relevant partners to ensure success for the upcoming ASEAN-United Nations summit due to be held in October 2010 in Hanoi, thus uplifting the ASEAN-United Nations cooperation to a new calibre.

Mr. President,

Alongside the birth of the United Nations, a new Viet Nam, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, now the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was founded. This country has since then surmounted uncountable harsh trials throughout its struggle for national independence and freedom. Having mingled with the mainstream of history of mankind and the United Nations, the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence, freedom and development has made remarkable contributions to the common success of mankind in an effort for a world of peace, justice and development.

For the past thirty years as a United Nations Member, Viet Nam has joined hands with other Member States in working towards the adoption of many resolutions, decisions and concrete measures aimed at curbing the arms race, promoting comprehensive and full disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, resolving international conflicts and disputes by peaceful dialogue, developing social, cultural and economic cooperation, and ensuring human rights.

It is those commitments and determination that have led the multifaceted cooperation between Viet Nam and the United Nations to increased improvement and incessant development. In the past, the United Nations rendered valuable and practical assistance to Viet Nam in finance and expertise for the country's post-war reconstruction, helping Viet Nam particularly overcome the difficulties arisen during the period of blockade and embargo.

Today, the United Nations system and its organizations have been active in providing policy advice and technical assistance to help Viet Nam address development challenges as the country steps up industrialization and modernization for the goal of a strong country, a rich nation and an equitable, democratic and advanced society.

Viet Nam has been actively implementing the "Delivering As One" initiative in Viet Nam with a view to enhancing its national ownership capacity in development cooperation and contributing to the reform of the United Nations in general and the United Nations development agencies in particular. Viet Nam has always paid attention to promoting the tripartite cooperation between Viet Nam, a United Nations agency and an African country in such areas as agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure, and this has yielded initial encouraging outcomes. We have recently organized the second Viet Nam-Africa International Forum in Hanoi, which drew keen interests and large participation from most African countries and international organizations.

In the years ahead, building upon the past success of its foreign policy of openness, diversification and multilateralization of external relations, Viet Nam will step up its international integration and make further contribution to the work of the United Nations for the sake of peace, stability, equal relations among countries and an environment conducive to the development of all nations.

Mr. President,

With the firm belief in and strong commitment to the work that requires the joint dedication of hearts and minds of the United Nations and its Members, I sincerely wish this session of the General Assembly every success, thus meeting the common cherished aspiration of the peoples for a world of peace and prosperity.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.